

# Carl Sandburg Home

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Carl Sandburg Home  
National Historic Site



Explore, Learn, Protect:  
Be a Junior Ranger

# Welcome!

The **National Park Service** (NPS) is a group of people who help to protect the people and events in United States history as well as the plants and animals and places that make our country unique.

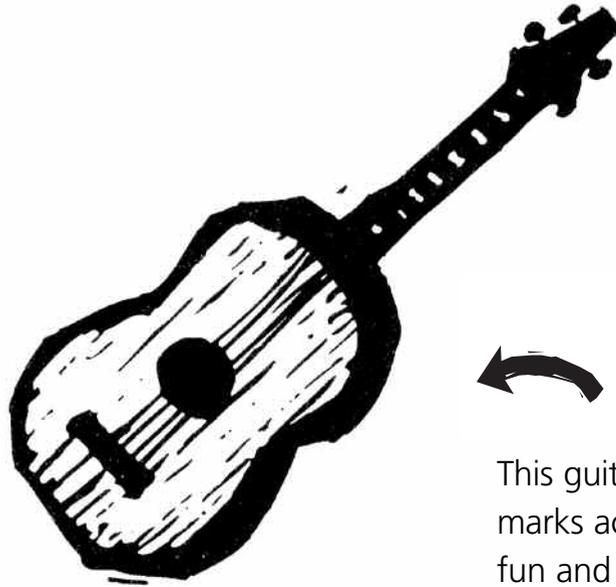
These plants, animals, places and people are called our **national treasures**. These treasures are protected in places called national parks. These parks remind all of us that we, as United States citizens, live in a special and fascinating country.

As National Park Service Rangers, it is our job to be the stewards or the protectors of the parks. It is our job to understand the treasures and share them with you. The more you understand how important the parks are to our country, the more likely you are to help protect our parks so that your children and their children and their children can enjoy them too!

As a Junior Ranger, you too are a steward, in this case the steward of stories about Carl Sandburg. As you discover this national park, you will begin to learn and understand this historical treasure. You can then help us share with visitors the importance of this house and these grounds as a national treasure.

**Earn a Junior Ranger badge and certificate by completing the activities in this booklet.**

Younger children complete all the activities with the guitar symbol and older children complete all the activities with the typewriter symbol.



This guitar symbol marks activities for fun and for the young.



These activities require a little more concentration and thought.

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*This Junior Ranger booklet was made possible in part by a grant from the National Park Foundation through the generous support of the Unilever Company, a Proud Partner of America's National Parks and a National Corporate Partner of the Junior Ranger Program, through the generous support of the Community Foundation of Henderson County and the Friends of Carl Sandburg at Connemara.*

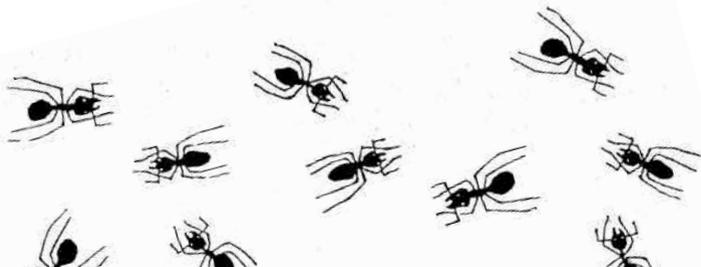
*Special thanks to all the boys and girls, their parents, and the teachers who took part in the evaluation of several draft versions of this booklet. Thank you to Jesus Figueroa, Interpreter for Henderson County Public Schools, Hendersonville, North Carolina who translated the Spanish language version of this booklet.*

# Carl Sandburg: The Poet



*photos: NPS*

Carl Sandburg loved words. He loved how words could be used to show happiness or sadness, anger or hunger. Sometimes Mr. Sandburg would write about nature: the sea, the trees, the birds, the sky; sometimes he would write about his wife Paula or one of his daughters: Margaret, Janet, or Helga. He would write poetry about things he felt were unfair or things he felt were funny. He didn't worry whether or not his poems rhymed. He just wrote how he felt and how he saw things.



Read, or have someone read to you, the following poem  
Mr. Sandburg wrote about bugs.

### Bug Spots

This bug carries spots on his back  
Last summer he carried these spots  
Now it is spring and he is back here again  
With a domino design over his wings  
All winter he has been in a bedroom  
in a hole, in a hammock, hung up, stuck away  
Stashed while the snow blew over... the wind and the dripping icicles  
the tunnels of the frost  
Now he has errands again in a rotten stump

-Carl Sandburg, *Early Moon*

*reprinted with permission from Harcourt, Brace & Jovanovich, Inc. © 1930*



Which bug is Mr. Sandburg talking about? Circle.



Butterfly



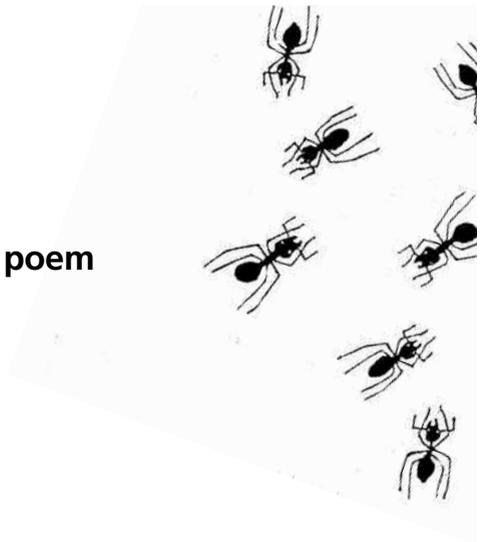
Bee



Ladybug



Spider





In the space provided create a three- to-five line poem about something in nature you love.

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# Carl Sandburg: Writes About Honest Abe



A biography is a true story of someone's life. Reading a biography is a good way of getting to know a person.

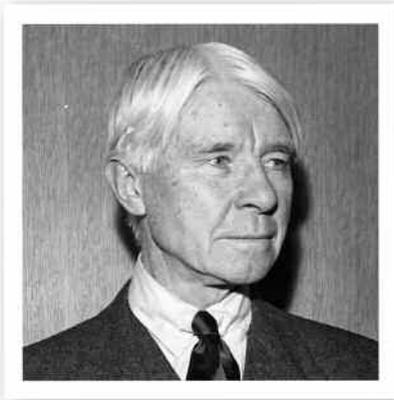
Carl Sandburg wrote a biography about Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President of the United States. He chose Mr. Lincoln, also known as Honest Abe, because he felt every American could learn from the lessons of Mr. Lincoln's life.

Mr. Sandburg spent many years studying about the life of Honest Abe. He read his poetry, his speeches, and his letters; he learned what he liked to eat, liked to read, and liked to do with his time. Mr. Sandburg was getting to know Mr. Lincoln.

He wrote two very large biographies about Mr. Lincoln called *The Prairie Years* and then four more large biographies about Mr. Lincoln called *The War Years* for which he won a very important award, the Pulitzer Prize, in 1940.



Which one is Carl Sandburg?  
Circle his picture.



*photos: NPS*



If you could write a biography, whom would you write about? List three to five facts about this person.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

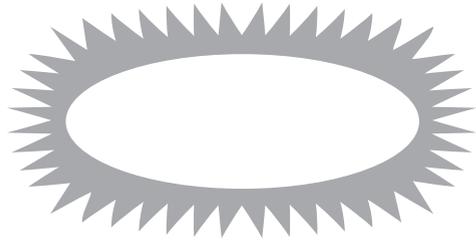
2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

Who is it?

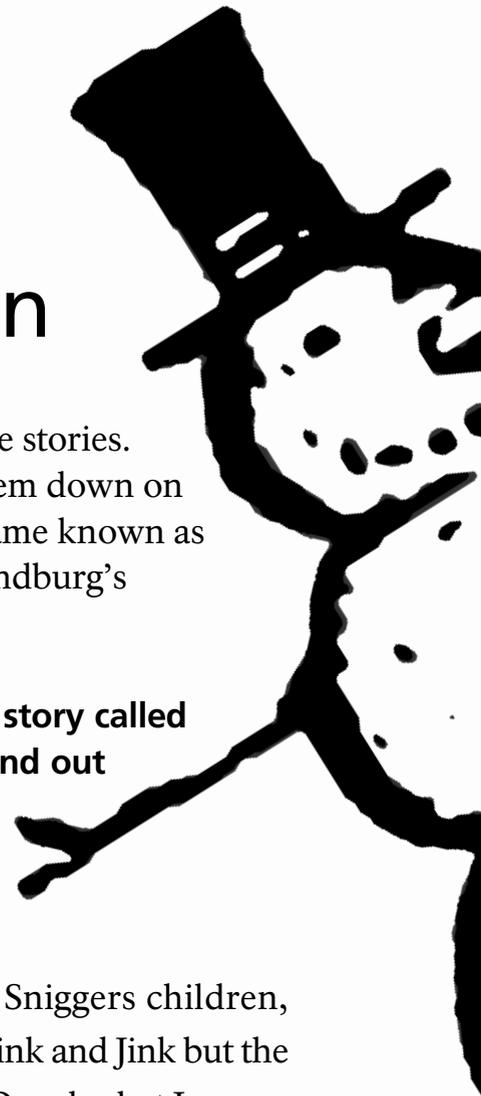


# Carl Sandburg: Writer of Fairy Tales for American Children

Carl Sandburg's children loved to listen to his bedtime stories. They liked these stories so much he began to write them down on paper for all of America's children. These stories became known as the *Rootabaga Stories* and *Rootabaga Pigeons*, Carl Sandburg's American fairy tales.

**Read, or have someone read to you, the following story called *How the Hat Ashes Shovel Helped Snoo Foo* and find out why Carl Sandburg became a beloved children's writer in the mid-1920s.**

If you want to remember the names of all six of the Sniggers children, remember that the three biggest were named Blink, Swink and Jink but the three littlest ones were named Blunk, Swunk and Junk. One day last January the three biggest had a fuss with the three littlest. The fuss was about a new hat for Snoo Foo, the snow man, about what kind of hat he should wear and how he should wear it. Blink, Swink and Jink said, "He wants a crooked hat put on straight." Blunk, Swunk and Junk said, "He wants a straight hat put on crooked." They fussed and fussed. Blink fussed with Blunk, Swink fussed with Swunk, and Jink fussed with Junk. The first ones to make up after the fuss were Jink and Junk. They decided the best way to settle the fuss. "Let's put a crooked hat on crooked," said Jink. "No, let's put a straight hat on straight," said Junk.



Then they stood looking and looking into each other's shiny laughing eyes and then both of them exploded to each other at the same time, "Let's put on two hats, a crooked hat crooked and a straight hat straight."

Well, they looked around for hats. But there were not any hats anywhere, that is, not hats big enough for a snow man with a big head like Snoo Foo. So they went in the house and asked their mother for the *hat ashes shovel*. Of course, in most any other house, the mother would be all worried if six children came tramping and clomping in, banging the door and all six ejaculating to their mother at once, "Where is the hat ashes shovel?" But Missus Sniggers wasn't worried at all. She rubbed her chin with her finger and said softly, "Oh lah de dah, oh lah de dah, where is that hat ashes shovel, last week I had it when I was making a hat for Mister Sniggers; I remember I had that hat ashes shovel right up here over the clock, oh lah de dah, oh lah de dah. Go out and ring the front door bell," she said to Jink Sniggers. Jink ran away to the front door. And Missus Sniggers and the five children waited. Bling-bling the bell began ringing and – listen – the door of the clock opened and the hat ashes shovel fell out. "Oh lah de dah, get out of here in a hurry," said Missus Sniggers.



Well, the children ran out and dug a big pail of hat ashes with the hat ashes shovel. And they made two hats for Snoo Foo. One was a crooked hat. The other was a straight hat. And they put the crooked hat on crooked and the straight hat on straight. And there stood Snoo Foo in the front yard and everybody who came by on the street, he would take off his hat to them, the crooked hat with his arm crooked and the straight hat with his arm straight. That was the end of the fuss between the Sniggers children and it was Jink, the littlest of the biggest, and Junk, the littlest of the littlest, who settled the fuss by looking clean into each other's eyes and laughing. If you ever get into a fuss try this way of settling it.



In the space below, draw a picture of the snow man Jink and Junk created. Don't forget the hats!



Carl Sandburg liked to make up words when he couldn't find one in the English language that he liked. What do YOU think he meant by a *Hat Ashes Shovel*?

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# Carl Sandburg and His Family

Carl Sandburg was born January 6, 1878 in Galesburg, Illinois. His parents were not American; they were from Sweden. Carl spoke Swedish before he ever knew English!

Carl Sandburg married Lilian Steichen, otherwise known as Paula. Like Carl, Paula's parents were not American; they were from Luxembourg. Paula, too, had to learn English in school. Carl and Paula had three daughters: Margaret, Janet and Helga. They also had two grandchildren, John Carl and Paula.

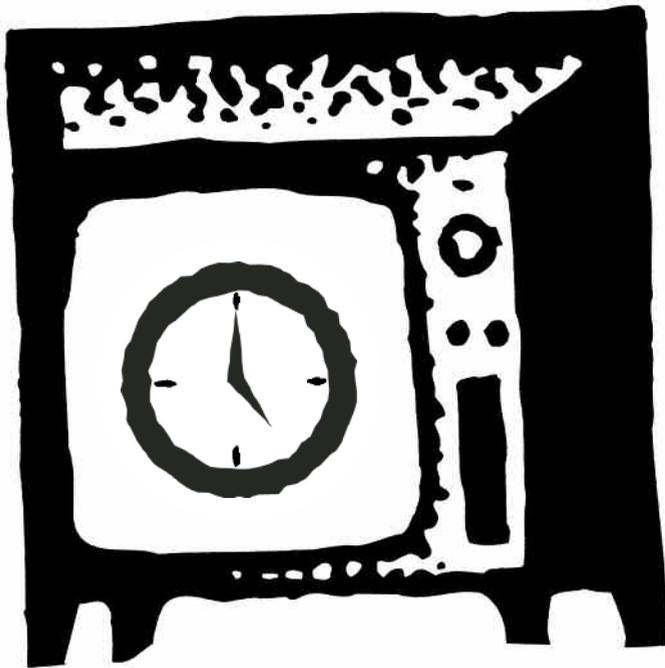
Their family was very active, and they loved spending time together. Carl would often share stories at the dinner table. These were either stories he had written, or they were stories that he found interesting or funny.

The Sandburgs also enjoyed going for walks, often at night. They would decorate the house with souvenirs brought back from their walks: ginkgo leaves, rocks, acorns, and wildflowers. The Sandburgs enjoyed spending time with their dogs and cats, horses and goats. They enjoyed watching the birds, building bluebird houses, listening to the birds sing. . .and listening to each other sing, especially Carl – strumming his guitar and sharing his collection of folksongs with the family.



*photos: Courtesy of Paula Polega*

From left to right:  
Mrs. Sandburg  
and great  
grandson, Sascha;  
Helga Sandburg  
with her children,  
Paula (on left) and  
John Carl (on  
right); grand-  
daughter Paula  
with her  
grandfather,  
Carl Sandburg.



The Sandburgs' daughters and grandchildren watched TV, but Carl Sandburg thought television was a **thief of time**.



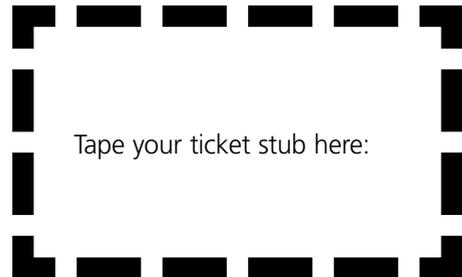
What do you think Mr. Sandburg meant by TV is a thief of time?

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See for yourself how the Sandburgs lived. Ask the Park Ranger for a ticket to the next available house tour. You are a kid, so it's FREE!



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What did you see in the house that you also have in your house?

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# The Sandburg Farm

Helga Sandburg, at sixteen years old, wanted a pet cow, but her father convinced her that goats would be easier to raise. Helga agreed, so she and her mom went shopping for a dairy goat. What began as three very fine dairy goat pets grew into a large herd of over one hundred goats.



The Sandburg goat herd was called the Chikaming Herd. Chikaming was an Indian word meaning at the *edge of the great expanse*. At the time the Sandburgs were living on the shores of Lake Michigan, one of the Great Lakes, so the name seemed perfect! Seeking better land for the goats, a warmer climate, and more privacy for Mr. Sandburg, the family (and the goats) moved to a beautiful farm with lots of pastureland in Flat Rock, North Carolina in 1945. Mrs. Sandburg called the dairy Connemara Farms Goat Dairy.

They raised three breeds of goats at the farm: Saanens, Nubians, and Toggenburgs. Mrs. Sandburg scientifically bred her goats to produce the most milk and the best milk possible. She believed too many goat breeders bred goats without a plan. Mrs. Sandburg's Toggenburg goat, Jennifer II, produced twice the amount of milk of any other Toggenburg goat in the world!

Mrs. Sandburg, her daughters, and some hired help operated the goat dairy at Connemara for over twenty years. Mrs. Sandburg was as famous a goat farmer, as her husband was a famous writer.



Go to the barn and learn more about Saanen, Nubian, and Toggenburg goats.



Fill in the name of each breed of goat that Mrs. Sandburg raised.



Answer the question about each goat.

\_ \_ \_ **G** \_ **N** \_ \_ \_ **G**

This breed of goat is from what **country**?

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\_ **U** \_ \_ \_ **N**

This breed of goat has a **special nose**.  
What kind of nose is it?

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\_ \_ **A** \_ \_ **N**

This breed of goat is always the  
same **color**. What color is it?

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*photos: Bob Dickinson*

# Carl Sandburg: Folksinger

When Carl Sandburg was 19 years old he left home and became a hobo. He traveled on trains in between the boxcars. He worked odd jobs to pay for a good meal and he often camped out with other hobos.

Hobos sang around campfires at night. These songs told stories of the American people, their hopes and dreams, their struggles with love and work. Happy, sad, or funny stories, Carl Sandburg loved these songs. He collected and sang these songs throughout his lifetime.



## Goober Peas

Sittin' by the road side on a summer's day  
Chatting with my mess-mates, passing time a-way  
Lyin' in the shadows – underneath the trees,  
Good-ness how delicious – eating goober peas!  
Peas! Peas! Peas! Peas! Eating goober peas!  
Good-ness how delicious – eating goober peas!



What are Goober Peas? (hint: elephants love them!)

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Go to the bookstore and ask to listen to a CD of Mr. Sandburg singing from his *American Songbag*, the book in which he wrote down the songs that he had collected. Which song did you listen to?

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Now that you have learned a bit about this national park, find the words and phrases that you have come to know today in the puzzle below. As you find them, be sure to mark them off the list.

**READ SANDBURG WORKS**

**TOUR HOUSE**

**WRITE A POEM**

**LEARN A SONG**

**VISIT GOATS**

**PARK RANGER**

**CARL SANDBURG**

**BIOGRAPHER**

**CONNEMARA**

**LINCOLN**



T D E B B I O G R A P H E R B P K  
 O B D K L Y M B E U C Z T Y J A R  
 U I K M C M B P P L A T C B W R I  
 R E A D S A N D B U R G W O R K S  
 H B C V H Y F O L H L T U J I R V  
 O Q I G C D R K P O S V F R T A K  
 U N L O U B K J G T A P O M E N H  
 S Q L E A R N A S O N G P V A G C  
 E U I J K Y F H O V D R C V P E M  
 W N N B F H T U O L B B F R O R L  
 N J C U Y B N M K G U C F H E M K  
 P L O C O N N E M A R A V F M R T  
 N B L U Y N V F T R G G T K O U C  
 X B N J T K V I S I T G O A T S A

Congratulations! You have completed Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site's Junior Ranger Program. Show this booklet to the Park Ranger to receive your Junior Ranger badge and certificate.



# The Junior Ranger Pledge

As a Junior Ranger, I \_\_\_\_\_, promise to protect and preserve the legacy of Carl Sandburg by passing on the stories I have learned during my visit to Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site. I also promise to respect the natural, wildlife, and cultural resources wherever I am. I will share what I have learned about national parks with others and will continue to explore these national treasures.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Junior Ranger

\_\_\_\_\_  
Park Ranger

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# Certificate of Stewardship

This certificate is awarded to

\_\_\_\_\_

in recognition of becoming a Junior Ranger

National Park Service • Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site



Explore, Learn, Protect:  
Be a Junior Ranger



\_\_\_\_\_

Park Ranger

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

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